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Madison, Wis. - Stephen P. Sinnott, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Derek Farmer a/k/a "D," 29, Madison, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 78 months in prison for distributing heroin. Farmer pleaded guilty to this charge on October 27, 2009.

Judge Crabb stated it was difficult to understand why Farmer chose to distribute heroin when he had a stable family background and had been steadily employed as recently as December 2008. She further noted that his sentence was warranted in light of the fact that he distributed approximately 400 grams of heroin in a short time frame prior to his arrest.

Farmer is the second of nine defendants to be sentenced in federal court after a series of arrests in August. The remaining defendants - Walter Green, Chavis Webster, Corey Webster, Mike Adams, Cherish Jones, Eric Dixon, and Yarnell Fuller - are scheduled to be sentenced this week and in early 2010. On December 28, 2009, Brian Adams was sentenced to ten years in prison for his role in the case.

The charges against Farmer were the result of an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation, the Madison Police Department, the Middleton Police Department, the Sun Prairie Police Department, the McFarland Police Department, the DeForest Police Department, and the Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jeff Anderson and Paul Connell.